

Women New Jersey

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs



Volume III, No. 2



Winter 2000



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Unemployment Comp for Victims of Domestic Violence

by Linda B. Bowker, Director
Division on Women

Editor's Note: This past fall Division on Women Director, Linda Bowker testified before the Assembly Labor Committee on behalf of A-2366 which since has been enacted into law. Her testimony appears below.

Good afternoon, I am here today in support of A-2366 sponsored by Assemblymen LeFevre and Blee. This bill provides that an otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied unemployment compensation because he or she left work, or was discharged due to circumstances resulting from domestic violence. This bill also provides that under these circumstances the employer shall not be charged for the payment of unemployment benefits.

Victims of domestic violence who are forced to flee for their lives from an abusive partner or spouse are in the most desperate of situations. The decision to leave work is paramount to their personal safety and not voluntary as current regulations would suggest. I would like to offer this Committee an example of the desperate measures women are forced to take to stay alive and safe. A New Jersey woman (whose name I will withhold to protect her confidentiality) filed a restraining order against her abusive

continued on page 8



The Governor's Conference on Women: Economic Pathways to Power 2000

March 28, 2000

by Laurie Synder, Events Coordinator
New Jersey Division on Women

The fourth Governor's Conference on Women: Pathways to Power 2000 will be held on March 28, 2000 at the Skylands in Randolph, located on Route 10 in Morris County. Once again, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce is joining the Division on Women, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs as co-host of the conference.

The highlight of the conference will be the keynote speakers, Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Carole Simpson, Senior Correspondent of ABC News. Comedienne Paula Poundstone, will provide the evening entertainment.

There also will be sixteen workshops at the Conference representing three pathways to power – Financial, Political, and Personal. All pathways will be presented at each workshop session. Attendees will be able to choose from eight workshops in the morning and eight workshops in the afternoon. Some examples of the workshops being presented include: "Making The Most Of Your Money," "The Next Steps: Innovative Techniques for Handling Financial Situations," "Creative Ways of Financing Women-Owned Businesses," "E-Commerce," "Financial Strategies," "Women for Office (Ready to Run and Money)," "Everybody Listens to a Two-Ton Elephant," "Persuasion (How to Get People to Say 'Yes')," "Reaching for the Stars! You Can Do It," "What to Do When a Reporter Calls," "Changing Your Game Plan From Success to Significance," "Power Politics and the Corporate Ladder," and "Corporate and Not-for-Profit

Boards." In addition, the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women will be conducting two workshops of particular interest to statewide women's organizations and county and municipal commissions on women. They are: "Shaping Women's Future for the 21st Century," and "How Did They Do That? Best Practices."

So that you won't have to spend all of your time hard at work, there will be plenty of opportunities for networking, eating, and socializing. A continental breakfast will be available during registration. The conference will start off with a welcome from Joan Verplanck, the President of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce followed by Keynote Speaker, Carole Simpson, Senior Correspondent for ABC News. A sit-down luncheon will follow the morning's workshops with Governor Whitman as the keynote speaker and presentation of the Governor's Leadership Scholarship Awards. Following the afternoon workshops, the day will close with a full-course dinner, presentation of the Outstanding Woman and Connie Woodruff Awards, and entertainment by Comedienne Paula Poundstone.

All of the above (including dinner) is available for only \$100.00. Those individuals who wish to attend the dinner only may purchase dinner tickets for \$40.00 per person. If you have not signed up as yet, and wish to attend, send in your registration form immediately. Registration forms are available on the WEB at njchamber.com. If you wish to stay overnight please contact the Parsippany Hilton at (973) 267-

continued on page 2



Senator Lipman Chair in Political Leadership Established

By Theresa Daniels

On January 6, 2000 Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed into law, S-1941 sponsored by Senators Richard Codey and Donald DiFrancesco and Assemblymen Joseph Doria and Jack Collins. This legislation appropriates \$100,000 to establish the **Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Political Leadership**.

The chair will be a permanent faculty chair at the Center for the American Woman and Politics within Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics. The chair will be rotated initially among a scholar or a practitioner involved in issues related to the development of political leadership.

Senator Lipman was the longest-serving member of the State Senate, first being elected in 1971 and serving continuously until her death in May of 1999. She was the first African Ameri-

can woman elected to the Senate and served as a powerful advocate for the disadvantaged and the disenfranchised. She was the voice of women, children, families and minorities.

This legislation recognizes the accomplishments of a true political leader and symbolizes Senator Lipman's steadfast dedication to women and minorities. It continues her vision of developing leadership so that women and minorities may achieve equality in the State Legislature and other political positions. ♡

International Women's Day, 2000

by Shelley Jacobs Mintz, Project Coordinator
International Women's Day Celebration

International Women's Day (IWD) will be celebrated this year on March 8th. Its theme is "**Looking Backward to Move Forward: Work Songs and Stories of Our Great-Grandmothers.**" IWD began in 1911 as a day in which to honor working women and their contributions to history and human rights. Its celebration is promoted annually by the YWCA of the USA, and is co-sponsored by the Non-Traditional Career Center in the New Jersey Department of Education, and by the Region II office of the U. S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau.

To promote the IWD theme, students in grades 3 - 12 have been asked to write an essay, poem, or short play about the work

of a New Jersey woman in the past who has made a difference in her town, county, New Jersey, the nation, or even internationally. Each entry is to document how the woman named has influenced the particular student's life, or has inspired her/him personally.

Entries are divided into four clusters — grades 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8, and 9 through 12. First, Second and Third Prizes and Honorable Mention will be awarded for each grade cluster. The winning entries will be compiled and distributed to the press. In addition, the winners will be commended to their schools, their County Superintendent of Schools, and to their county Commission on Women. ♡

Women: New Jersey

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Governor's Conference...continued

7373. To obtain conference rates, you must identify yourself as a Governor's Conference attendee.

As in past years, we know there is a great interest in attending this year's Governor's Conference. However space is limited, so it is imperative that, if you

haven't done so already, you need to get your reservations and money in today. Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to discover ways to increase your power, network and socialize with women from throughout New Jersey. See you there! ♡

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Need for County and Municipal Commissions on Women

by Dianne M. McKay, Chair
New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

Why Commissions on Women

Recently, in a conversation about county commissions on women in New Jersey, I was informed that one commission was thinking of disbanding because all their work had been accomplished. Upon receiving this news, I was rather incredulous. For just a moment I paused to think how wonderful it would be if Commissions on Women were no longer needed. If this were the case, then we would have reached a time in which women had equity with men. This reverie passed swiftly as I refocused on the current reality that many of New Jersey's women still remain in a second-class status.

The New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women together with county and municipal commissions are vitally needed to work to improve women's lives in their counties and communities, and in the state. In fact, it remains one of my goals as Commission Chair to work

toward having a commission in each of New Jersey's twenty-one counties.

As long as inequities in education, training, employment, wages, pensions, poverty, violence, health care, childcare, reproductive choice, and other issues remain for New Jersey women, commissions on women must continue their work. County commissions can play a vital role in illuminating the needs and concerns of women to their Freeholder Boards. The county commissions also can communicate these concerns to state government through the New Jersey Commission and the Division on Women. The role of the county commissions serving as an intermediary between the local citizens and the state government presents a unique opportunity to work for positive changes for women not only in their county, but also throughout the state.

Governor's Conference 2000

Aside from raising concerns and addressing problems, the county commissions serve to celebrate the outstanding achievements of women throughout the state. At the Governor's Conference on Women 2000 to be held on March 28, 2000 at Skylands in Randolph (Morris County), each commission (county and municipal) was asked to select an outstanding woman from their county/city to be honored by the New Jersey Commission at a

dinner gala. In addition, the Commission will announce the winner of the Connie Woodruff Award, selected from recommendations of the 19 county and municipal commissions. This award is named in honor of the late Constance "Connie" Woodruff, first Chair of the New Jersey Commission, and past President of the National Association of Commissions for Women. This award is presented annually to that woman who has best demonstrated a commitment to women's rights, or through her advocacy or community achievement, improved the quality of life for the women of New Jersey. I urge everyone to join with the New Jersey Commissions in celebrating the accomplishments of New Jersey women on March 28th. As we gather we will reaffirm the importance and the need of continuing to improve the status of women in New Jersey. 🌸



New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

**Membership
January 2000**

Dianne M. McKay, *Chair*
(*Burlington*)

Lynn S. Caterson, Esq.,
Secretary (Atlantic)

Linda B. Bowker, *Director,*
Division on Women [ex officio]

Rosanna Dovgala (*Mercer*)

Marguerite Emberger (*Cape May*)

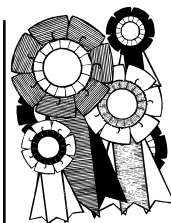
Barbara Lehman (*Somerset*)

Marguerite Merritt (*Somerset*)

Barbara Muzetska (*Monmouth*)

Nadine T. Ranade (*Monmouth*)

Deborah Rosado Shaw (*Morris*)



Award Winners

Connie Woodruff Award

State Senator Diane Allen (*Burlington*)

Beverly Gilbert (*Atlantic*)

Outstanding Woman

Redenia Gilliam-Moses (*Atlantic*)

Joan Kakascik (*Bergen*)

Cathi Rendfrey (*Burlington*)

Freeholder Patricia Egan Jones
(*Camden County*)

Catherine Dunbar (*Camden City*)

Ederle Peterson (*Newark-*
Mayor's Commission)

Janet Larwa (*Hudson*)

Margaret Varma (*Middlesex*)

Faith C. Liguori (*Ocean*)

Peggy Kavanaugh (*Salem*)

Rose McConnell (*Somerset*)

Carolyn Vollero (*Union*)

Patricia A. Sweeney (*Warren*)



Laws of the 208th Legislature of Concern to Women

Compiled by Theresa Daniels, Legislative Coordinator
NJ Division on Women

Editor's Note: *Since the last newsletter was published the additional bills of concern to women were passed by the Legislature and enacted. The list is as below:*

Chapter 277, Approved 12/3/99, A-2281 (Holzapfel/Heck)

Imposes a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for a second or subsequent offense of enticing or luring a child.

Chapter 288, Approved 12/20/99, A-2785 (Heck/Asselta)

Requires fingerprinting of domestic violence offenders.

Chapter 289, Approved 12/20/99, A-2789 (O'Toole/Talarico)

Requires annual domestic violence training for family court judges.

Chapter 294, Approved 12/23/99, A-17 (Collins/Cottrell)

Permits the victim's survivor in any homicide prosecution to present a photograph of the victim taken before the homicide at sentencing.

Chapter 304, Approved 12/29/99, A-2144 (Holzapfel/Crecco)

Permits victims to submit videotaped statements for use in parole hearings.

Chapter 312, Approved 1/4/00, S-342 (Allen/Kosco)

Establishes Intergenerational Child Care Incentive Pilot Program.

Chapter 323, Approved 1/6/00, S-1941 (Codey/DiFrancesco)

Establishes the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Political Leadership at the Center for the American

Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute of Politics; appropriates \$100,000.

Chapter 330, Approved 1/10/00, S-436 (Bassano/Allen)

Requires DHSS to prepare informational pamphlet on osteoporosis and distribute to pharmacies.

Chapter 334, Approved 1/10/00, S-1697 (Gormley/Bryant)

Establishes procedures allowing the issuance of restraining orders against persons charged with or convicted of certain offenses.

Chapter 339, Approved 1/10/00, A-1653 (Kelly/Cohen)

Requires health insurance coverage for health wellness examinations and counseling; appropriates \$95,000.

Chapter 341, Approved 1/10/00, A-2133 (Kelly/Doria)

Requires health benefits coverage for annual mammograms for women age 40 and over.

Chapter 391, Approved 1/18/00, S-869 (Lipman/Sinagra)

Concerns UI benefits for victims of domestic violence.

Chapter 393, Approved 1/18/00, S-1433 (Cafiero/Allen)

Clarifies procedures in civil actions alleging sexual abuse.

Chapter 421, Approved 1/18/00, A-1109 (Azzolina/Luongo)

Establishes a domestic violence central registry.

Chapter 424, Approved 1/18/00, A-1586 (Luongo/Crecco)

Denies custody and visitation rights to a minor child by individuals convicted of certain crimes.

Chapter 434, Approved 1/18/00, A-2786 (T. Smith/Friscia)

Clarifies and strengthens domestic violence training requirements for law enforcement officers; appropriates \$250,000.



First Woman Justice Retires

By Theresa Daniels

On
December
22, 1999
Justice

Marie Garibaldi announced her retirement from the New Jersey State Supreme Court effective February 1, 2000.

Justice Garibaldi, the first woman appointed to the State Supreme Court, was appointed by Governor Tom Kean and sworn in by Chief Justice Robert Wilentz on November 17, 1982.

Marie Garibaldi was born in Jersey City. She attended Stevens Academy in Hoboken and Connecticut College. She received her law degree from Columbia University Law School and was admitted to the bar the following year. She received her master's degree in tax law from New York University. She served as chairwoman of the Weehawken Charter Commission and was a Weehawken municipal judge.

At the time of her appointment to the high court she was serving as the first woman president of the New Jersey State Bar Association and was associated with Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland and Perretti specializing in tax law. Before joining the firm she was a staff counsel with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's regional office in New York.

Justice Garibaldi was author of over 200 opinions, including several opinions of particular interest to women. In August of 1999, Justice Garibaldi wrote the majority opinion upholding the death penalty of Jesse Timmendequas. Timmendequas, in 1994 raped and murdered Megan Kanka. That case spurred the creation of "Megan's Law," which calls for tracking and registration of sex offenders. The Timmendequas decision rejected defense claims that pretrial publicity had tainted the jury.

In 1993, Garibaldi wrote the unanimous opinion on the issue of sexual harassment

in the workplace, the case of *Lehmann v. Toys 'R' Us, Inc.* The decision interpreted the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 to 42), and set standards for interpreting what would constitute sexual harassment in a hostile work environment.

In 1990, Garibaldi wrote the majority opinion in favor of former Princeton University student Sally Frank. Frank had filed a sex discrimination suit against the university and the two remaining all-male eating clubs after the clubs denied her admission.

At the time Justice Garibaldi announced her retirement, Governor Whitman stated, "She will not be remembered, however, simply among the first. Marie Garibaldi will be remembered for being among the best."

Justice Garibaldi has been succeeded by New Jersey Banking and Insurance Commissioner, Jaynee LaVecchia. 🐾

Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women Tracks its Growth

By Carol Vasile, Supervisor

Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women

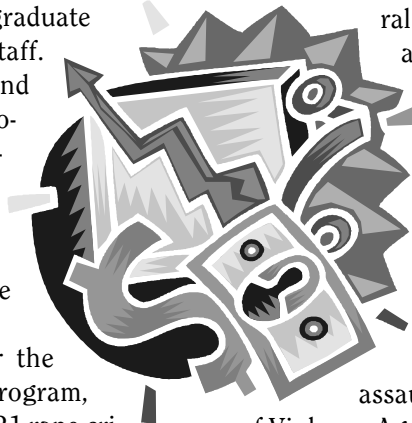
With the signing of Executive Order #61, the Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (OPVAW) was established in 1992. Over the last eight years, the Office has developed from its small beginnings with a few staff and a workplan into a multi program Office comprised of ten staff: program development specialists, project assistants, graduate and undergraduate interns, and support staff. The Office focuses on policy development and analysis, legislative analysis, grant and program development, special projects, and public education initiatives on issues of violence against women. Specifically, the issues that the Office focuses on include sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, dating violence and sexual harassment.

Several grant programs are now under the Office's purview, including the Rape Care Program, which provides state and federal funding to 21 rape crisis centers in New Jersey and to two statewide sexual assault educational programs. Rape Crisis Centers funded by the Divi-

sion on Women are required to provide a 24-hour crisis hotline; accompaniments for victims to hospital, court and police; and individual and group counselling.

Other OPVAW grant programs include Women's Shelter grants, Prevention of Violence Against Women grants, Women's Referral Central, the statewide Domestic Violence hotline and Special Legislative Awards.

New initiatives on violence against women are at the forefront of the work of the Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women. With assistance from the Office, new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) and Sexual Assault Response Team (S.A.R.T.) Programs have been initiated in a number of counties in New Jersey. These programs have been developed as the standard for responding to sexual assaults in New Jersey. The Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women sits on the boards of each of these programs in each county. These programs ensure that a victim of sexual assault is, if she/he chooses, [continued on page 10](#)



Presenting the New Jersey Division on Women

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division on Women is to create, promote, and expand the rights and opportunities for all women in the State of New Jersey. We provide leadership in the formulation of public policy and in the development, coordination and evaluation of programs and services for women.

Our Vision

We are committed to the advancement of women as full partners in society.

Our Customers

Women, community groups, government entities, and not-for-profit agencies that represent and serve women, legislators and the general public.

Our Products and Services

We provide the following services for our customers:

- ♦ Fund, monitor and evaluate programs for the advancement of women;
- ♦ Develop new programs to serve women;
- ♦ Develop and analyze policies that affect women;
- ♦ Educate and train the public;
- ♦ Refer women to direct service providers;
- ♦ Provide information on women's issues to the general public;
- ♦ Provide technical assistance to agencies representing women;

- ♦ Represent women on boards, commissions, councils, committees and task forces.

Our Values

We will treat all customers and suppliers with respect.

We will give our customers, prompt, efficient and appropriate assistance even when we cannot give them what they want.

We will partner with our providers to produce the best quality programming possible.

We desire that the women with whom we come in contact will feel understood and cared for.

We will treat each other as well as we treat our customers:

- ♦ We will actively build trust, respect and mutuality with each other;
- ♦ We will openly recognize the contributions each of us makes to the organization;
- ♦ We are committed to openly listening to each other;
- ♦ We will treat each other with compassion;
- ♦ We will have fun.

We will develop a sense of team in the way we work and support one another;

We will ensure that our programs are congruent with our deepest values of equity for women.

We will treat others as we would like to be treated.

We will forgive one another for inadvertent violations of our values. ♡

New Jersey Division on Women Staff Directory

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Legislative Coordinator: M. Teresa Daniels

Grants Coordinator: Patricia Richardson

Office Manager: Linda Farley

Fiscal Affairs: Sonya Martin

Clerk Typist: Marilyn Preston

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Elaine Feller

Program Manager/Hispanic Women Centers:
Dianne Ciesla

Technical Assistant/Urban Women Centers: Gwen Spann

Clerk Typist: Fran Pearson

Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women

Supervisor: Carol Vasile

Advisory Council on Domestic Violence: Grace Hamilton, Staff Liaison
and Mary Taylor, Project Support Specialist

Domestic Violence Programs: Sharon Miller,
Program Manager

Fatality Review Board: Grace Hamilton, Program Manager
and Andrea Fleisch, Research Assistant

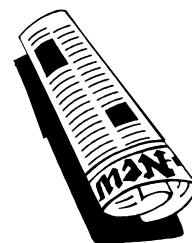
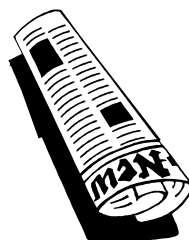
Rape Care Program: Vicki L. Rodriguez, Coordinator
and Lynette Day, Assistant Coordinator

Secretarial Assistant: Jayne Woodson

Clerk Typist: Lisa Hernandez



NEWS of the Commissions



Women's History Month

This being the month of March, it is **Women's History Month**, and almost every commission on women in the state has planned an event to mark and celebrate this occasion. The New Jersey Commission's celebration will take place at the dinner at the 2000 Governor's Conference on Women which is being held at Skylands in Randolph on March 28th. The activities of the county and municipal commissions offer a wide variety of activities — Hall of Fame, Women of Excellence Awards Dinner, Legislative Breakfast, essay contests on women who have made a difference in history by school children and high school students, health awareness, official celebrations in conjunction with the commission's county government, etc. [Details next issue.]

NACW

The 2000 Convention of the **National Association of Commissions on Women** will be held in San Francisco, California this year beginning Saturday, August 26th. The San Francisco Commission will serve as the host conuffission. If you are interested in attending, contact the San Francisco Commission for details. Their fax number is (415) 232-2575, and their mailing address is 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, Suite 130. They can supply you with details.

City of Camden

The **Camden City Commission on the Status of Women** has successfully reorganized and has been reauthorized by the City of Camden. Former Vice Chair Victoria King is the new Chair. One of the Commission's first actions upon reorganization was to adopt a Mission Statement. The Statement commits the Commission to:

- ♦ Become well-informed on issues relating to women in all aspects of life;

- ♦ Promote legislation at all levels of government to insure the guarantee of equal rights for all women;
- ♦ Serve as a vehicle for dissemination of information pertaining to discrimination; provide support programs for business opportunities, economic empowerment; entrepreneurship; health awareness; networking;
- ♦ Communicate with, educate and inform all women in the City of Camden on issues impacting directly and indirectly on their lives;
- ♦ Acknowledge, promote and recognize persons who have made contributions toward the improvement of the quality of life for all residents within the community;
- ♦ Serve as advocates for: housing, childcare, health programs, and social programs to provide a better lifestyle for all women.

Mercer

This past fall, the **Mercer County Commission on the Status of Women** held a gala fundraiser to raise monies for the provision of mammograms for Mercer County uninsured and under-insured women. The gala was held at the Trenton War Memorial and featured the cast and co-writers of the musical, "Sang Sista Sang." Commission members served as "waiters." Entertainment was provided by the Ben Singleton Jazz Trio and vocalist Darleena Sammons-Posey. . Coming up, the Annual First Time Home Buyer Event held in conjunction with the New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency.



Somerset

The **Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women** has updated its basic brochure on the Commission. It describes what a commission on women is and what it does . . . Long-time Freeholder Liaison ROSE

MC CONNELL has stepped down as Freeholder, and is the Commission's selection for an Outstanding Woman Award from the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women, of which Rose was a charter member.

Cape May

The **Cape May Advisory Commission on the Status of Women**, in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, this past summer sponsored a free



seminar on New Jersey's child support program

The Commission has updated its organization brochure to include a mission statement, concerns and interests survey, and a volunteer resource enrollment form. It has also revised its Directory of Women's Organizations in Cape May County. The organizations listed run the gamut from such organizations as the American Association of University Women and Soroptimists International to groups like Women's Aglow Fellowship and the Sweet Adelines.

Camden

On January 21, 2000, the **Camden City Commission on the Status of Women** held a noontime tribute and celebration of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Council chambers at City Hall. At the program, the City Council paid tribute to Dr. King with a resolution which stated in part: "The City Council hereby commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his accomplishments and hopes his message of non-violent protest to injustice, and his dream of equality for all men will never be forgotten, and urges the citizens of Camden to join together in his vision for a better society by emulating his spirit of love and brotherhood. "

continued on page 8

News...continued

Atlantic

BEVERLY GILBERT, past Chair of the **Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women** has been selected as co-recipient of this year's Connie Woodruff Award by the New Jersey Commission. Beverly for the past 20 years has been Executive Director of the Atlantic County Women's Center which serves as a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Indeed, she wrote the initial funding grant establishing the shelter program. She has expanded the work of the Center to include rape care, child care, and a displaced homemakers program.

Warren

Last fall, the **Warren County Commission for Women** saluted PATRICIA SWEENEY, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County as its Outstanding Woman of the Year. Ms. Sweeney has now been named by the Commission to receive the New Jersey Commission's Outstanding Woman Award.

Other Outstanding Woman Awardees

Thirteen of the 19 county/municipal commissions on women in New Jersey selected an Outstanding Woman to be recognized by the New Jersey Commission this spring. They included: **Atlantic - Redenia Gilliam-Moses**, Senior Vice President for Atlantic City's Hilton Hotel, Bally's Park Place, and the Wild West Casino. **Bergen - Joan Kakaseik**, psychologist with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities and past Co-Chair of the Bergen Commission; **Camden County - Freeholder Liaison Patricia Egan-Jones**; **Camden City - Catherine Dunbar**, Chief Community Relations Specialist with the city's Department of Health & Human Services; **Mayor's Commission (Newark) - Ederle Peterson**, retired from the New York State Department of Housing & Urban Development; **Hudson - Janet Larwa**, Commission Liaison, and active with Hudson Cradle; **Ocean - Faith Liguori**, Director of the county's Department of Human Services; **Salem - Peggy Kavanaugh**, Commission Treasurer and community activist; **Union - Carolyn Vollero**, Commission Chair and former Mayor of Cranford. 🏆



Essex County Advisory Board on Women Assists with Fashion Boutique for Welfare Mothers



Essex County Advisory Board on the Status of Women together with the Salvation Army last year held a Fashion Boutique for women on welfare. The women serving as models were allowed to keep the clothes they modelled.

Pictured from left to right are Dorcas K. O'Neal, Advisory Board Chair; model; Mary Singletary, Board of Trustees Salvation Army; and Salvation Army Captain Sandra Jackson.

From the Director's Desk...continued

husband. He violated the restraining order and repeatedly threatened to kill her at her place of employment. This woman, who had every reason to believe the batterer's threats to be real, felt she had no choice but to leave her home, job and the state in order to protect herself from further acts of violence. When she applied for New Jersey unemployment insurance, her claim was denied based on the opinion that she had left her job voluntarily.

This bill clarifies the mistaken presumption that individuals who are forced to leave work because of domestic violence are acting on a voluntary basis. Domestic violence is a crime not a choice, and women who are forced to leave work due to incidents of domestic violence should be eligible to collect unemployment.

Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law will provide victims of

domestic violence with more options for increasing their personal safety. At least seventeen other states have made provisions for victims of domestic violence to collect unemployment insurance, including New York and Pennsylvania. New Jersey has always been at the forefront of enacting domestic violence laws benefiting the victims of this terrible crime. Passage of this bill would enhance that reputation and provide victims of domestic violence with the financial safety net they need to establish a life free from violence.

I urge the committee to release this bill with a favorable vote. Thank you.

Editor's Note: This bill was subsequently passed by both houses of the Legislature, and enacted into law on January 18, 2000. 🏆



North Jersey Hispanic Women's Resource Center at La Casa De Don Pedro

by Michelle Cardosa, *HWRC, La Casa de Don Pedro*
Dianne Ciesla, *SET Unit, Division on Women*

Anny Robles walked into the Hispanic Women's Resource Center (HWRC) of Northern New Jersey in Newark with a dream: she wanted to improve her English and get a better job. Working at Burger King for minimum wage, she longed to practice the public relations career she had enjoyed in the Dominican Republic. After sharing her goals with the Bilingual Case Manager, Anny enrolled in the "Abriendo Caminos (Opening Pathways) Program," an intensive English, computer, and job readiness training. After completing the intensive ESL/Job Readiness training in June 1999, Anny Robles said, "I feel confident. When I go out, I don't feel scared when I talk English. This course is not only English, it's about the person." Ms. Robles worked at HWRC as an office assistant intern before landing a job at Lucille Roberts as a Customer Service Representative. "The work here [at HWRC] opened a door for another job," she said. "When people tell me I have an accent, I don't feel scared. Now I feel happy because I can speak two languages."

Each year, the Hispanic Women's Resource Center serves over a hundred women like Anny who are struggling to create a better life for themselves and their families. The mission of the Women's Center is to enhance the employability and empowerment of Hispanic women by providing ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, job readiness and self-development workshops, computer classes, internships, and employment assistance. Through the host agency, La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.,

HWRC offers a multitude of resources including domestic violence counselling, child care, citizenship classes, and housing assistance. During 1999, HWRC assisted over 150 women; provided over 40 weeks of ESL training to 100 women; gave 38 weeks of computer training to 58 women; and placed over 35 women in jobs. These successes do not begin to measure the confidence, self-esteem, and pride the women feel gained at the Women's Center.

Besides helping women get off welfare, the Center's goal is to prevent women from having to depend on public assistance. Through the "Abriendo Caminos Program," all Hispanic women of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties are eligible to receive an individual case management session to determine which programs and steps would best suit their needs. All of the clients complete a resume before graduating, and all participants are taught interviewing techniques, business etiquette, and telephone skills that are essential to compete in today's job market.

HWRC offers women a wide range of workshops ranging from women's leadership to economic literacy. Its WELL (Women's Empowerment and Leadership for Life) curriculum, written by Joanne Bisagna Villafane, Ph.D., is used regularly to develop assertiveness and communication skills for women. The Economic Literacy Program was created in collaboration with Dr. Luis Gonzalez of Bloomfield College to teach persons of low-income how to achieve their financial goals. Participants learn how to open a savings account, create a budget, and invest in mutual funds. The Center awards client scholarships to women to enroll in the Office Assistant Training Program, the Environmental Technical Training Program, and the Nurse's

Aid Program. Students also participate in activities and field trips designed to enhance their cultural awareness and aid in the learning process.

In the dawn of a new millennium and computer age, HWRC is undertaking a collaborative project with Rutgers University to create a web network for Hispanic women. The web site would serve two primary functions: to provide resources for Latinas through the Internet, and to give Abriendo Caminos students the opportunity to learn web page design. The Telecommunications Learning Center (TLC) at La Casa de Don Pedro offers computer training to HWRC participants in Microsoft Office and the Internet. Besides reaching women through the Internet, HWRC will offer a women's club to the Hispanic community as a way to network, socialize and share information. The club will be for everyone so that Hispanic women can interact with peers who have been through similar situations.

In 1987 the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey enacted the "Hispanic Women's Demonstration Resource Centers Act" to provide job training and other services for Hispanic Women. Three centers were established to provide outreach to the Hispanic community, basic English language skills and bilingual and bicultural resources, training, self-help programs, mentoring, job counseling services, and career information services.

Editors Note: *The Northern New Jersey Hispanic Women's Resource Center is one of three HWRCs in New Jersey. They are serviced by the Support, Employment, Education, and Training Unit of the Division on Women. For more information on the HWRCs and other support agencies for women, call the Division on Women at (609) 292-8840.* ☛

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Still today, sexual assault is all too pervasive. The National Victim Center and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center estimates that a woman is raped every 63 seconds somewhere in the United States. A woman is battered by an intimate partner every 9 seconds. In an effort to address these assaults, Congress passed a few years ago the Violence Against Women Act. Federal funding for sexual assault prevention services is due to expire this year unless Congress renews the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as part of the omnibus federal crime bill. For the first time, federal monies became available to help fight these crimes, and to educate professionals in the medical and crime prevention fields in recognizing and treating sexual assault. However, this legislation is due to expire this year, and federal monies in these areas will dry up unless VAWA is renewed. There is currently legislation pending before Congress that would renew and expand sexual assault and domestic violence prevention services.

Under the proposed new legislation, federal monies would once again be available for provision of the following sexual assault prevention services:

- ♦ Rape prevention and training;
- ♦ Establishment of a National Resource Center on Sexual Assault;
- ♦ Creation of a national protocol for all Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners;
- ♦ Training of medical school students in the recognition of sexual assault/domestic violence, and in how to respond appropriately;
- ♦ Sexual assault of prisoners by prison staff;
- ♦ Enactment of a Hate Crimes Prevention Act, permitting prosecution of crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability;
- ♦ Rescheduling and classification of date rape drugs;
- ♦ Civil legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault.

For more information, or a copy of the proposed legislation, contact your congressperson or U. S. Senator. The main number for Congress is (202) 224-3121. 🍀

OPVAW Tracks its Growth...continued

met by a team comprised of a rape care advocate, a specially trained nurse examiner, and the police after a report of sexual assault has occurred. This team is trained to deliver victim-centered services in a sensitive and caring manner so that the victim can begin to make decisions about how she/he may want to proceed forward. The Office's Rape Care Program staff ensures that Rape Crisis Centers and victims issues are adequately addressed by each board and that each county establishes sensitive practices in dealing with rape victims.

The Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women is also involved in assisting victims of domestic violence in their efforts to secure their safety once they have left an abusive situation. As a result of collaboration between the Office and local domestic violence programs, victims of domestic violence may participate in a service that severely limits an abuser's ability to access information that could lead to a victim's new location.

The Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women regularly submits proposals for projects related to violence against women. One of the most significant projects of the OPVAW is the establishment of the first Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board in New Jersey; a project funded by federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds. The concept of a fatality review board represents a current national trend focused on ways to reduce domestic violence fatalities and ultimately reduce incidences of domestic violence. A multidisciplinary board representing prosecutors, police, health care professionals, advocates and other government representatives has been established as a core work-

ing board. This board reviews murder/suicide cases in New Jersey and eventually plans to make recommendations for system change where appropriate. The staff continues to develop a database of all murder/suicide cases.

The Office also provides support, through a VAWA grant, to the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence, a multidisciplinary council that collaborates on issues of domestic violence. The Office has assisted the Council in reorganizing by initiating a strategic planning session and implementing the workplan developed there.

Publication of written material has been a goal of the Office since its inception. Starting with one brochure in 1993, the Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women has expanded its publications to include 20 brochures, palm cards, fact sheets and posters of which more than 10,000 are distributed monthly to health care professionals, educators, law enforcement personnel, legislators and the general public. The newest additions are brochures on sexual harassment—one for middle school students and one geared toward high school students; and a brochure on date rape drugs.

The Division on Women's Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women's presence is noted by the numerous boards, committees and councils in which its staff participates, to represent the voices of women who have been victims of violence; and, to develop policies throughout the state that reflect a sensitive approach to women victims of violence and a consistent application of laws and policies that affect them. 🍀

STATEWIDE COLLECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

This past October in connection with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the New Jersey Division on Women served as coordinator for all state agencies in the collection of items for victims of domestic violence in New Jersey. State employees contributed over 5000 personal items to the collection. Items included diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels, backpacks, and lunch boxes. The collection was then donated to the Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (C.A.R.A.), the Cape May County domestic violence program. 🍀




COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 4

“Celebrating Challenges & Choices for a New Century;” Delaware Women’s Conference, Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware. Sponsor/Information: Delaware Commission for Women (302) 761-3205.

April 29 - May 13

“Eighth Annual Breast Cancer Advocacy Training Conference,” J. W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the National Breast Cancer Coalition. Information: NCBCCF (202) 296-7477; website: www.stopbreastcancer.org.




March 31 - April 2

The “Second Feminist Exposition Nationwide & Worldwide,” Baltimore Convention Center. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation. Information: Feminist Majority Foundation (703) 522-2214, fax: (703) 522-2219, e-mail: expo2000@feminist.org. Exposition of over 350 organizations dedicated to the empowerment of women, not only in the U. S., but worldwide.

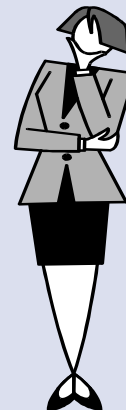
May 25

“Kaleidoscope, A Conference for Women,” Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio. Focuses on quality education and training for working women, and women seeking new employment opportunities. Information: Women’s Division, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (614) 466-4496.

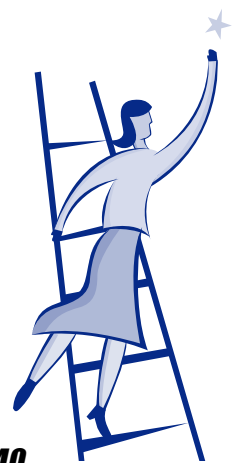
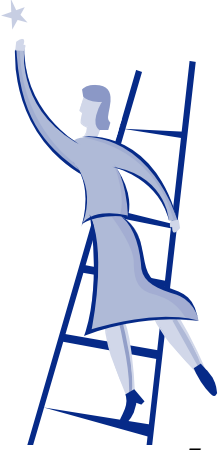


April 19

“Women, Minorities & Veterans Business Seminar;” Presented by U. S. Small Business Administration, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Urban Women’s Center, 49 Fowler Street, Trenton. Details: Tashea Dowling (609) 392-5959.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND:
Governor's Conference On Women:
Pathways To Power
March 28, 2000



**Skylands
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Randolph, New Jersey**

8:30 AM - 9:30 PM

*For an invitation, call the New Jersey Division on Women at (609) 292-8840
or fax your request to (609) 633-6821.*

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